

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

and the South did not invent it. Throughout the United States, persons who believed in the doctrine of states' rights had long argued that a state had a right to withdraw from the Union whenever it chose. They argued that individual states had formed the Union and therefore could also dissolve it. Some persons in the New England states wanted to leave the Union during the War of 1812, because the war was unpopular there.

Government. Organization of a government for the Confederacy began on Feb. 4, 1861, when delegates from six of the seven seceding states met at Montgomery, Ala., and set up a temporary government. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was elected President of the Confederacy, and Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia was chosen Vice-President. Both were to serve for one year. After the adoption of a permanent constitution, they were elected to six-year terms. Six prominent Southerners became members of the first Cabinet, and Montgomery was named the temporary capital. After Virginia seceded, the Confederate Congress voted on May 21, 1861, to move its capital to Richmond. The move was accomplished on May 29.

The Constitution of the Confederacy, adopted in March, 1861, was modeled after the United States Constitution. But it contained six important differences:

1. The term of the President and Vice-President was six years. The President could not serve successive terms.
2. Cabinet members received seats in Congress and had the privilege of debate. But they could not vote.
3. Foreign slave trade was ended, but not slavery.
4. Congress was forbidden to make appropriations for internal improvements, to levy a protective tariff, or to give bounties.
5. A two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress was necessary to admit a new state into the Confederacy or to make appropriations not requested by the heads of departments through the President.
6. The President could veto single items in appropriation bills.

The Confederate States hoped for a peaceful withdrawal from the Union. A number of persons in the Confederacy and in the Union worked hard to avoid war. But their efforts failed, and war began with the attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.

The Border States were the slave states that lay between the North and the deep South. When the war began, both the Union and the Confederacy made strong efforts to gain their support. North Carolina, Virginia, Arkansas, and Tennessee joined the Confederacy. Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri stayed in the Union. But the western counties of Virginia seceded from the South later in the war, and formed the state of West Virginia. And secessionist groups set up separate state governments in both Kentucky and Missouri, even though these states stayed in the Union. These groups also sent delegates to the Confederate Congress. This accounts for the 13 stars in the Confederate flag even though only 11 states actually joined the Confederate States of America.

Foreign Relations. Great Britain, France, The Netherlands, Spain, and Brazil were among the countries that recognized the Confederate States as a belligerent, but not as a nation. Recognition of southern belligerency meant that Confederate ships received the same privileges granted to vessels of the United States in foreign ports or on the high seas.

The Confederacy suffered great financial disadvantages. The wealth of the nation, before secession, lay mainly in the North, and the South lacked adequate resources for taxation. The Confederate government had to issue paper money early in the war. This money soon became almost valueless. The people of the Confederate States gave generously to their government, and willingly bought government bonds. But their loyal financial support could not create resources that did not exist within the boundaries of the Confederacy.

Progress of the War favored the Confederacy in the first months. The defeat of the Union forces at Fredericksburg, in December, 1862, led the Emperor of France, Napoleon III, to offer his services as peacemaker between the Union and the Confederacy. The Union rejected this offer. In 1863, the tide began to turn against the Confederacy. The Union armies could get more materials and supplies from the industrial North than the Confederate armies could obtain from the agricultural South. The North kept its army supplied

The Confederate States of America

- Confederate states
- Border states in the Union
- Union states and territories
- * Confederate capitals
- ® Union capital

0 400 Miles
0 400 Kilometers



CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA was the name taken by six southern states when they organized their own government at Montgomery, Ala., in February, 1861. The states *seceded* (withdrew) from the government of the United States in 1860 and 1861 because they feared that the election of Abraham Lincoln, a Republican President, might lead to restrictions on their right to do as they chose about the question of Negro slavery. The first state to leave the Union was South Carolina on Dec. 20, 1860. Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana followed South Carolina's lead in January, 1861. In March, 1861, Texas also seceded, and later in that year Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee joined the ranks to make 11 Confederate States of America in all.

The idea of a state leaving the Union was not new,

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CONFEDERATE CABINET

Secretary of State.....	Robert Toombs (1861)
	Robert M. T. Hunter (1861)
	Judah P. Benjamin (1862)
Secretary of the Treasury.....	Christopher Memminger (1861)
	George A. Trenholm (1864)
Secretary of War.....	Leroy P. Walker (1861)
	Judah P. Benjamin (1861)
	George W. Randolph (1862)
	Gustavus Smith (Acting) (1862)
	James A. Seddon (1862)
	John C. Breckinridge (1865)
Secretary of the Navy.....	Stephen R. Mallory (1861)
Postmaster General.....	John H. Reagan (1861)
Attorney General.....	Judah P. Benjamin (1861)
	Thomas Bragg (1861)
	Thomas Watts (1862)
	George Davis (1864)

with ammunition, food, and clothing, while the army of the South often lacked these supplies. Union ships blockaded Southern ports. The only way the South could bring in necessary supplies from overseas was to run the blockade. But Southern soldiers fought bravely until there was no longer any hope of victory.

The Confederate Congress met in frequent sessions during the war, mainly to follow the bidding of President Davis, who made free use of his war powers. The Davis government lasted until the fall of Richmond, on April 3, 1865. Danville, Va., served as the capital after the fall of Richmond. The main Confederate army, the Army of Northern Virginia, surrendered on April 9, 1865. The people of the Confederacy had defended a way of living that to them seemed right. But they yielded to superior force. The road to reunion in spirit between the North and the South was long, but by the beginning of the 1900's resentment had been largely forgotten.

JOHN DONALD HICKS

Related Articles. See the History sections of the articles on the states of the Confederacy. See also:

Benjamin, Judah P.	Lee, Robert E.
Border State	Mallory, Stephen R.
Breckinridge, John C.	Memminger, Christopher G.
Civil War	Nulification
Davis, Jefferson	Randolph (George W.)
Emancipation	Seddon, James A.
Proclamation	Semmes, Raphael
Flag (Flags of the U.S.)	States' Rights
Fort Sumter	Stephens, Alexander H.
Gordon, John Brown	Walker, Leroy P.
Johnston, Joseph Eggleston	West Virginia (History)

CONFEDERATE VETERANS, UNITED, was an organization of men who fought for the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. It was founded in 1889 in New Orleans to preserve the friendships formed during the war, and to help Confederate Civil War veterans, their widows, and their orphans.

CONFEDERATION. See **ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION; CANADA, HISTORY OF** (Confederation).

CONFESsION, in religion. See **ALTAR; ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** (The Seven Sacraments).

side of court, to officers of the law or to persons who are not officials.

Judges do not allow involuntary confessions to serve as evidence or proof in court. These confessions are obtained improperly, by such methods as injuring, threatening, or making promises to a suspect.

In 1966, in the case of *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court of the United States established the chief safeguards for the rights of suspects. The court ruled that before police question a person in custody, they must inform that person of certain rights. For example, the person has the right to remain silent and to have a lawyer present during questioning. If the police do not observe a suspect's rights, the court will not accept as evidence the statements the suspect made to them.

Courts recognize several types of confessions. A *simple confession* is merely a plea of guilty. An *implied confession* is made when a defendant who has not pleaded guilty asks the court for a light sentence. The person thus indicates—but does not admit—guilt. An *indirect confession* is one that the court assumes from the conduct of the accused person.

In cases involving civil law, rather than criminal law, statements of guilt are called *admissions*. Civil law covers such matters as contracts, personal injuries, and property ownership. Admissions may serve as evidence but not as proof.

RONALD R. DAVENPORT

See also **ESCOBEDO v. ILLINOIS; MIRANDA v. ARIZONA**.

CONFIRMATION is a religious ceremony practiced by several faiths. In the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Lutheran churches, and in the Church of England, it is associated with baptism. Roman Catholics believe that it confers the grace of the Holy Spirit on baptized persons. In Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, the baptized renew and confirm the promises made for them at baptism. In Judaism, boys are confirmed at the age of 13 in a ceremony called *bar mitzvah*. Some temples have similar ceremonies for girls called *bas mitzvah*. Many also hold a confirmation exercise on Shabuot (see **SHABUOT**).

BERNARD RABIN

See also **BAPTISM; BAR MITZVAH; BAS MITZVAH**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST occurs if an individual has a financial or other interest in a company doing business with his or her employer. For example, a person working for a government agency that awards contracts to private industry may have a financial interest in a company bidding for these contracts. A conflict of interest occurs if the government employee favors the company in which he or she has an interest. The conflict-of-interest issue often arises when business executives take positions in government. Full-time government employees are required to give up all outside financial interests that might conflict with their official duties. In 1977, Congress enacted a strict code of ethics, which included provisions to discourage conflicts of interest.

CHARLES O. JONES